

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 /158 W

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R 101431Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7660

INFO AMEMBASSFAMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, LE

ASUBJ: EGYPTIAN PUBLIC RESTRAINT AFTER IDF

NAVAL OPERATION

1. SECOND DAY AFTER ISRAELI NAVAL OPERATIONS AT TYRE, SARAFAND, SIDON HAS STILL NOT BROUGHT FORTH ANY GOE PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF ATTACK ON LEBANESE CIVILIAN PROPERTY. LOCAL PRESS REPORTING OF CONTINUING ISRAELI CROSS BORDER SHELLING IS DRAWN FROM NEWS AGENCY DESPATCHES. AHAM

JULY 10 RELEGATES STORY TO SECOND PLACE

PROMINENCE; COTTON WORM PROBLEM RECEIVES BANNER HEADLINES.

2. ALTHOUGH ALL THREE ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS DEVOTE EDITORIALS TO ISRAELI RAID, EVEN THESE ARE CONSIDERABLY RESTRAINED IN TONE.

AHAM SAYS THE AGGRESSION IS INTENDED TO JEOPARDIZE PEACE EFFORTS

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AND LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. AKHBAR MAKES SAME POINTS

AND URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REACT FIRMLY TO ISRAEL'S LAWLESSNESS." USG ROLE, IT ARGUES SHOULD MATCH ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ME SETTLEMENT TO WHICH IT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF. GUMHURIYYA ACCUSES ISRAEL OF SEEKING TO DELAY GENEVA CONFERENCE AND EXCLUDE PALESTINIANS AFTER LATTER'S "MASTER STROKCE" IN ACCEPING "NATIONAL AUTHORITY"NOTION. RAIDS ON PORTS, PAPER STATES, TOGETHER WITH FORMATION OF NEW SUICIDE SQUADS AND REPORTED RETURN OF SHARON TO ARMED FORCES ALL DEMONSTRATED ISRAEL'S OBSTINATE REJECTION OF OCTOBER WAR AND SETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES.

3. COMMENT: FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL GOE SILENCE ARE:(A) SADAT MAY FEEL LEBANESE DEFENSE IS BEST SERVED BY GIVING USG TIME TO ATTEMPT RESTRAIN GOI;(B) HE MAY WISH TO AVOID ENCOURAGING PALESTINIAN MILITANCE; PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN IT CONSTITUTES

SEVERE THREAT TO WHAT CONTROL GOL STILL HAS OVER EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON(CL HE MAY SIMPLY NOT HAVE DECIDED WHAT REACTION IS APPROPRIATE OR, SINCE HE IS CURRENTLY IN ALEXANDRIA, NEW PRESS GUIDANCE MAY NOT YET HAVE REACHED CAIRO EDITORIAL BOARDS.

4. WHATEVER THE FACTORS ARE WHICH SO FAR HAVE INHIBITED STRONG GOE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELIS, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF GOE MAINTAINS PUBLIC SILENCE MUCH LONGER, THIS RESTRAINT LEAVES SADAT VULNERABLE V CRITICISM NOT JUST FROM ARAB RADICALS BUT ALSO FROM MODERATE EGYPTIANS WHO COMPREHEND ISRAELI DISTRESS ABOUT MURDEROUS

FEDAYEEN INCURSIONS, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE STRAIGHT OUT ATTACK ON PURELY LEBANESE TARGETS IS IN ANY WAY DEFENSIBLE.
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